

### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A cellulose ~~Cellulose~~ ether blend[[s]] comprising:
  - a) cellulose ether,
  - b) from 0.1 to 10% by weight of an additive selected from the group consisting of starch, starch ether, guar, guar ether and xanthan, based on the cellulose ether in a dry form,
  - c) optionally from 0.05 to 1% by weight of polyacrylamide, based on the dry cellulose ether, and
  - d) optionally further additives,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein said cellulose ether blend is prepared by a process comprising,

metering-in additive b) ~~has been metered-in~~ as an aqueous solution or as a powder, and

metering-in polyacrylamide c) ~~has been metered-in~~ as an aqueous solution to form a water-moist cellulose ether having a moisture content in the range from 25% to 75% by weight, based on the weight of the moist cellulose ether,

~~with mixing~~ (a) - (d), and

~~optionally with further addition of~~ adding water, and

milling and drying the cellulose ether blend,

further wherein said cellulose ether blend has a bulk density that is more than 40 g/l greater than the bulk density of a comparative cellulose ether blend prepared by mixing in the absence of milling.

2. (Currently Amended) The cellulose ~~Cellulose~~ ether blend[[s]] ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the cellulose ether is methyl cellulose or methylhydroxyalkyl cellulose.

3. (Currently Amended) The cellulose ~~Cellulose~~ ether blend[[s]] ~~according to~~  
~~of~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the additive b) has been metered in as a  
powder.

4. (Currently Amended) The cellulose ~~Cellulose~~ ether blend[[s]] ~~according to~~  
~~of~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyacrylamide c) is an anionic  
polyacrylamide having a sodium acrylate content of less than 20% by weight and a  
viscosity of less than 1000 mPas (as determined under conditions of 1% strength by  
weight in 10% strength by weight sodium chloride solution, at a temperature of  
25°C).

5. (Currently Amended) The cellulose ~~Cellulose~~ ether blend[[s]] ~~according to~~  
~~of~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a starch ether selected from the group  
consisting of hydroxyalkyl starch, alkylhydroxyalkyl starch and  
carboxymethylhydroxyalkyl starch is used as additive b).

6-10. (Cancelled)